

THE 9-CENT ALAMO STAMP AND ITS FIRST DAY COVERS



Autographed plate number block by Charles Chickering, original stamp drawing; Richard M. Bower, engraver picture; and Howard Sharpless, letter/numeral engraver.

PURPOSE: This is a First Day Postal Division exhibit of the Alamo 9-cent stamp (Scott number 1043) of the *Liberty Series*. It follows the traditional plan of organization.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Alamo 9-cent stamp was issued June 14, 1956. The first day ceremony was held in front of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. Gillis King was appointed first day Ceremonial Chairman by the United States Post Office Department (USPOD). He also represented the Texas Heritage Foundation, Inc.

TREATMENT: The story of the stamp begins with photo essays and a study of the stamp itself.

There are some of the letters from the USPOD to King detailing plans for the ceremony.

Memorabilia highlights of the first day festivities are the USPOD Ceremonial Program and the first day Commemorative Album page. Unofficial souvenirs are from Assistant Postmaster Robertson's Alamo Hall reception; and the Joske's of Texas (department store) luncheon.

First day covers were autographed by the ceremonial dignitaries. San Antonio Philatelic Association president, Joseph Armand G  linas, used the Association's first day covers for their signatures.

Examples of the stamp's first day covers are arranged alphabetically. These include those prepared by well-known cachet makers, lesser-known individuals, and unknown artists. There are maximum cards.

The 9-cent Alamo stamp was issued to pay triple the first class 3-cent rate. It was used to make up various postage amounts. Commercial domestic and international mail features various postal rates.

Each usage chapter is arranged in rate order. Included are first-class rates for surface mail and airmail. Rates such as third- and fourth-class matter are shown. Represented are services for registry, insurance, et cetera; and auxiliary markings.

Finally, there is a cover demonstrating that the Alamo 9-cent stamp was still in use in 1977. Starting in 1965, the *Prominent Americans Issue* replaced the *Liberty Series*, and it did not include a 9-cent stamp.

ORGANIZATION

- 1 The Stamp
- 2 First Day Arrangements
- 3 United States Post Office Department
- 4 Official First Day Cover
- 5 San Antonio Philatelic Society First Day Cover
- 6 First Day Ceremonial Program
- 7 First Day Ceremony
- 8 Commemorative Stamp Album
- 9 Unofficial Post-Ceremony Events
- 10 Government First Day Covers
- 11 Ceremony Follow-Up
- 12 First Day Covers
- 13 First Day Covers: Promotional
- 14 First Day Covers: Combinations
- 15 First Day Covers: Duals
- 16 First Day Covers: Add-On Cachets
- 17 First Day Maximum Cards
- 18 TEXANEX 71 APS Souvenir Card
- 19 Domestic Usages
- 20 International Destinations
- 21 Late Usage

Note: Highlighted items in this exhibit have dark lilac borders.